

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1373

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 268

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: UNIONIST DISSATISFACTION WITH RECENT MEASURES

1. IN PAST TWO DAYS THERE CONSIDERABLE AGITATION IN ULSTER OVER DEVELOPMENTS LOCALLY AND AT WESTMINSTER: (A) LOYALIST MPS AND LOCAL TRADE UNIONISTS ARE PROTESTING DECISION TO EXCLUDE HARLAND AND WOLFF SHIPYARD FROM DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN NEW BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS CORPORATION. (B) PUBLICATION OF CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON REORGANIZATION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION HAS AROUSED CONTROVERSY GENERALLY LINING UP TEACHERS UNIONS AGAINST ADMINISTRATORS, STATE SCHOOLS AGAINST VOLUNTARY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS AND EVEN, TO SOME EXTENT, CATHOLIC AGAINST PROTESTANT EDUCATORS. GOVERNMENT AT PAINS TO POINT OUT REPORT WAS DESIGNED ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION BUT WHILE THERE GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT "ELEVEN PLUS" EXAMINATION SHOULD BE ENDED, LARGER QUESTION OF IMPOSED COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM IS AT BASE OF CONTROVERSY (C) AMBIQUITY PERSISTSOVER GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD FURTHER TALKS WITH PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN. LOYALISTS WOULD LIKE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCE PERMANENT END TO DISCUSSIONS, AND TO PROSCRIBE PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN. STORMONT CASTLE (NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE) SOURCES ARE REPORTED AS SAYING THAT WHILE TALKS HAVE NOT TAKEN PLACE FOR SOME TIME, FUTURE LOW-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS

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CANNOT BE EXCLUDED. (D) WESTMINSTER VOTE APPROVING SUNDAY

LIQUOR SALES IN SCOTLAND HAS ALARMED LOCAL PROHIBITIONISTS AND MEMBERS "LORD'S DAY OBSERVANCE SOCIETY". OPPOSING VIEWS OF SCOTTISH MPS WERE APPARENTLY OVERRIDDEN IN VOTE BY ENGLISH AND ULSTER POLITICIANS APPREHENSIVE THAT SIMILAR MEASURE COULD BE ENACTED FOR PROVINCE. (E) FINALLY, LOCAL RADIO, TV, AND PRESS ENTHUSIASTICALLY REPORTING REACTIONS TO COMMONS QUESTION TABLED JULY 27 BY CONSERVATIVE MP MARCUS KIMBALL (SUGGESTING STUDY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CROWN COLONY ON THE ARDS PENINSULA. NEW COLONY WOULD ABSORB ALL BRITISH PASSPORT HOLDERS ENTITLED TO COME TO UNITED KINGDOM. MOST ULSTER POLITICIANS ARE NOT AMUSED.

2. LOYALIST/UNIONIST/PROTESTANT DISTRUST, PRIMARILY OF LABOUR GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICIES, BUT ALSO OF DIRECT RULE IN GENERAL, IS THREAD RUNNING THROUGH LOCAL REACTIONS. CONTINUING, BASIC AND MOST SERIOUS DISCONTENT IS WITH SECURITY POLICY. PROTESTANT POLITICIANS ACROSS THE BOARD SEE A LACK OF WILL ON PART OF GOVERNMENT TO END THE TERRORISM PROTESTANTS EQUATE WITH PROVISIONAL IRA. THIS DISCONTENT IS FINDING EXPRESSION NOT IN POLITICAL ACTION BUT ON A MUCH DIFFERENT LEVEL IN THE ACTIONS OF PARAMILITARY ASSASSINS. SPICER

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